

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 12, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 28, 30-40, 42-47, 49-51, 53-56 and 66-69 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claim 53 has been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-28, 30-40, 42-47 and 49-69 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 33 due a typographical error. Applicants believe the Examiner intended to direct this objection toward claim 53. Claim 53 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-23, 52, 57-29, 64-65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frazier et al. (U.S. Patent 6,430,288 B1) in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,683,862 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Frazier discloses a splitter assembly 10 including a housing 12 that contains a removeable card retainer 52. The card retainer 52 has a plurality of slots 60 sized to receive a number of individual POTS splitter cards 68. The card retainer 52 also includes a faceplate 70 having a window 74. The window 74 of the faceplate 70 provides access to three rows 94, 96, 98 of IDCs 100. Electrical connections must be made, typically in advance, between one IDC 100 in each of the rows 94, 96, 98 and a single POTS splitter card 68 located near the IDC 100. Column 4, lines 30-34. In operation, incoming POTS lines are affixed to the IDCs 100 in the INPUT row 94. Subscriber circuitry is affixed to IDCs 100 in the VOICE row 96 and DATA row 98. The circuitry of the splitter card 68 splits the incoming line into two separate voice and data outputs. Column 5, lines 8-15.

A. Claims 1-4 and 9-14

Claim 1 recites a telecommunications component including a circuit board and first, second, and third, cable connectors mounted on the circuit board. The telecommunications component further includes one or more card edge connectors connected to the circuit board.

Frazier does not teach or suggest an arrangement having a circuit board with each of first, second and third cable connectors mounted on the circuit board, and one or more card edge connectors connected to the circuit board. Instead, Frazier simply teaches an arrangement having a splitter card interconnected to an input IDC, a voice IDC, and a data IDC. The splitter card 68 does not further have a card edge connector.

Where Frazier fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1, Kim does not make up for the deficiencies of Frazier. Kim teaches only a virtual pilot channel generator 60 having "a splitter 62, connected to [a] virtual pilot channel source board 61" Column 4, lines 1-5. Kim does not teach or suggest that the board 61 includes specifically a card edge connector, as required in claim 1. Neither Frazier nor Kim teaches a circuit board having a card edge connector; and moreover, neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests a circuit board having both a card edge and three cable connectors.

In addition, because neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests the structural limitation of a card edge connector, neither Frazier nor Kim further teaches or suggests groupings of open and closed contacts on the one or more edge connectors, as required by claim 1.

Moreover, both Frazier and Kim are silent as to the particular positioning of first, second, and third tracings provided on the circuit board, as recited in claim 1. That is, neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests a circuit board having tracings such that none of the third tracings on the board cross-over any of the first or second tracings.

Applicants respectfully submit that because the references do not teach or suggest each and every structural limitation recited in claim 1, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established. At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-4 and 9-14 are patentable.

B. Claims 15-23

Claim 15 recites a telecommunications component including a chassis and an interface card mounted at a reference back plane of the chassis. The interface card includes a circuit board and first, second, and third, cable connectors mounted on the circuit board. The telecommunications component further includes one or more card edge connectors connected to the circuit board.

For similar reasons as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submitted that neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests a circuit board having a card edge connector; and therefore, neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests a circuit board having both a card edge and three cable connectors.

In addition, because neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests the structural limitation of a card edge connector, neither Frazier nor Kim teaches or suggests one or more edge connectors having normally closed and normally open contacts. Further, both Frazier and Kim are silent as to the particular tracings provided on the circuit board, and therefore do not teach or suggest a circuit board having particular tracings connecting the normally closed and normally open contacts to the particular first, second and third connectors, as recited in claim 15.

Applicants respectfully submit that because the references do not teach or suggest each and every structural limitation recited in claim 15, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established. At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15, and dependent claims 16-23 are patentable.

C. Claims 52, 57-59 and 64-65

Each of independent claims 52, 57, 58, 59, 64, and 65 recite similar limitations to those recited in claims 1 and 15. At least for similar reasons as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 52, 57-59 and 64-65 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38-40, 42-43, 44-47, 49-50, 53-56 66, 67, 68, and 69 are allowable. The Examiner also objected to claims 5-8, 24-27, 60-62

and 63 but indicated that claims 5-8, 24-27, 60-62 and 63 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-28, 30-40, 42-47 and 49-69) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

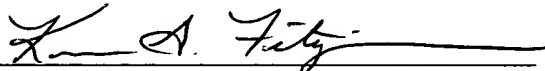
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Jan. 3, 2006


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